What Is This "System" We're Always Hearing About in the Police Force?

The Basic Principle of This Mystic Understanding Appears To Be That It Is Contrary to the "Ethics of the Game" for One "Cop" to "Throw Another Down."

reference is made to a police system. Just what is meant by these critics when Organization. they employ the word "system" is usually left to conjecture. The public, apparently. is presumed to know all about the system But is this a proper view to take? In a self of the opportunity to join is spotted. nevolent" and "endowment" somewhere in in dismal localities at night. He strong spirit of fellowship that animates means the less attractive parts of

Pension funds conducted by the police-There is, however, a general impression in manded on slight excuse. the mind of part of the public, at least, that the police system is really nothing more than a term to designate an incorporated determination among the men in the de- promotion. partment to stick together-that is, to help each other much as schoolboys do when trouble comes. A kind of sophomore soclety, you might say, with a nightstick instead of a stickpin for its emblem. But this view is only partly right.

Whatever the opinion of the public may be, the system, as it is understood by the men in the Police Department, from the Commissioner to the doorman, is powerful nd apparently impregnably intrenched. Whether its end be for good or evil, there is a system that reaches from the top to the bottom of the police force.

throw another "cop" down. "I have seen what happened to men who did," said a pano make-believe hell, but a real one."

If a patrolman were to testify against a roundsman, for instance, he would expect Mayor, all the roundsmen to "lay for" him thereafter-the honest roundsman just as much as the crooked one and if he could trust you leged police irregularities. they would drive him off the force. The same feeling goes up through all the ranks. system that frequently results in the miscarriage of justice.

THREE-FOURTHS IRISH.

would think of "squealing" against a fel- slightest nod.

own secret and incorporated protective association. It is in the manifestations of has gone to Albany early. If the law goes The District Attorney became interested. that the availability of the system for the measures which he advocated. The system for the measures which he advocated. The system for the measures which he advocated the "mortuary fund." called what it was, and a list of all the casions when the unwritten law to pro-

VERY now and then a judge on the | There are in the system the Patroimen's Fench or some other man high in Benevolent Association, the captains and municipal affairs criticises the New inspectors' ditto, the lieutenants', the Brook-York police force, and usually at such lyn Endowment Fund, the Doorman's Association and the Patrolmen's Endowment

Dues in all these powerful engines for concerted work, charitable or crooked, are small. The man who does not avail himvague kind of way doubtless the public There are numerous cruel but, in the code understands that the police force is bound of the department, perfectly legitimate together by various associations that have ways of punishing such a policeman. He the respectable and inspiring words "be- can receive assignments to fixed post duty their rather lengthy titles. Stories, too, crop up every little while relating the be disciplined "among the gouts," which Bronx, where the distances are great and the walking rocky. A policeman, worn out men are known to do a great deal for the by fatigue, collapsed a few days ago after families of officers and patrolmen who standing for two hours on a fixed post have met with physical disability or death. And, again, such a man may be reprifines or any other form of penalty visited upon a policeman make records that count against him in percentages required for

WHO HOLD EASY JOBS.

On the other hand, in four-fifths of the cases where a New York policeman is will prove that that particular bluecoat holds an important position in one of the associations. Such men get the jobs that demand no night duty. Getting at all of the truth about the collections of money these associations has been an unfulfilled dream of inquisitors and prosecutors who have come and gone. Now and then there is a gleam to cheer them in It is against the rules of the game to their work. They dig up a nugget and are glad. But, whereas, ephemeral things, and district attorneys trolman recently. "Their lives were a hell are elected for comparatively short terms, commissioner is subject to the smile of the

A district attorney has so many other things to attend to besides probing into alhe would tell you at once that he expected is there, subject to good behavior. The system is an aid to him in keeping his record pure; and the system never sleeps This is an aspect of the workings of the It is a law unto itself. Police trials have together" has proved supreme. The penalty for the transgressor of the "don't squeal" mandate is so certain, so hideous "It is estimated that 75 per cent of the to the imagination, that perhaps it is no police of New York are Irish or of Irish occasion for surprise that few patrolmen. parentage," said an officer in the depart- getting salaries of from \$800 to \$1.400 The hatred of the informer is year, have had the courage to break it, and ground into the very bones of the Irish those few have been hounded. There are race in all parts of the world. An Irish approximately ten thousand men in the demother would far rather see her son dead partment. It is the second largest force in the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association in a dirty shirt in the home of the head entries, though, and there was no record than hear that he had gone on the witness the world. Self-government has been restand to be an informer in a political duced to the sixth decimal. They know trial in Ireland."

This is offered as one reason why a patrolman would as soon think of puting his head into a lion's mouth as he commissioners come and go at the Mayor's trial in Ireland."

A stolen watch started the trouble between the death benefit from \$225 to increase the death benefit from \$250 to increase the death b ting his head into a lion's mouth as he Commissioners come and go at the Mayor's

these various organizations, membership in through, notwithstanding, the organiza- It was being rumored that the police of



AT THE "ROUND TABLE" OF THE NEW YORK POLICE FORCE-AS IT MIGHT LOOK TO A CITIZEN "UP A TREE."

There is a "system" that reaches from the top to the bottom of our police force, and its unwritten law is: "Stick together. Never inform on a brother officer.

required an increased "mortuary fund" of the association. The officers of the of receipts given to contributors. Albany \$150,000. Each man was assessed \$20. The "benevolent" organization denied that this did not see any of that \$82,000, nor any of three association delegates in each pre- fund was intended for any other use than a fund of \$20,000 that had been raised by how Bingham would retreat to the me- to pay interest on deposits, they had \$20,000 collected by the detective sergeants shot and killed Brennan. He testified Bingham, therefore, in view of these ob The organization has been able to at. tropolis with more haste than grace. So chosen such odd hiding places for the and the \$2,000 collected by the patrolmen at the coroner's inquest, and so did the ow bluecoat.

Every rank in the department has its tack the Legislature with much fine gold, many other commissioners had become money, the officers of the association said were disbursed among the subscribers when police witnesses, that he had killed Bren- of the facts, could only guess at the police witnesses, that he had killed Bren- of the facts, could only guess at the police witnesses. it was because they lacked business ex- the Bingham bills became laws.

It Is Largely Through Various Associations in the Departs ment That "The System" Operates and Is Able, Many Critics Say, to Profit by Law's Violation.

lieved by many students of police con- the snuffing out of the life of her boy ditions to be the outcome of such an in- She asked the District Attorney whether stance as that of the Dillon case, which a patrolman could kill a man in self-de

to protect such a man as Dillon, there are with the inconsistency of the thing, He those who are bound to express adverse investigated, and found that, sure enough opinions concerning the value of such an Brennan had been shot in the back influence at work in the community.

ject to periods of worse than uselessness tention of greasing the chute for Mallon; to himself and others through a taste for liquer. In addition to this, he was a mean an aid to the prosecution. The record man. He took advantage of his position on the force to intimidate small dealers in had been made to help his case. Instead his neighborhood. He grafted food supplies It called Mallon to his doom. In the Eld. from the delicatessen shops on his beat. ridge street station it had been written By blackmail he obtained one day from one that Brennan had been "shot while fee of these helpless shopkeepers some duck ing from arrest." eggs that, upon delivery to the policeman's ome, soon developed strong symptoms of being bad. Dillon was wild with wrath the system to defend Mallon. But the Die. and whiskey. In that condition he entered trict Attorney was fortunate enough to the delicatessen store. He took with him frenzied resolve "to get even." The proprietor and his wife became panic

tection. Their twelve-year-old son was raged, and that he snot Brennan while the present, and the proprietor told the boy to telephone Police Headquarters for assistance. Dillon shot and killed the boy. In- Sing. stantaneously and automatically the system started to save this lamb of the force. A slit in Dillon's coat was made by a patrolman acquaintance of his whom he between the scene of the shooting and the station house. It was established by competent witnesses that the policeman's uniform was whole and unmarked when he was placed under arrest. Dillon was brought to trial. The father and mother of the murdered youth were present. They were consigned to the exquisite torture of listening to Dillon testify that he had been leyal to the system-that is all. It is unassaulted in the delicatessen store with a tiring in its wrath when one of its sons knife. He pleaded self-defence. To affect the court and the jury he pointed to the cut in his coat as incontrovertible proof.

DECEIT FAILED TO SAVE HIM.

fable and show how and by whom the coat | cnce a year at the Walderf. An effort was had been cut. Dillon was convicted of made to influence the officers of the apmanslaughter and sentenced to seven years sociation to open their books for inspein Sing Sing. That was one case where the tion. Theoretically all members of the secret and incorporated protective associa- police force come within the jurisdiction of tion could not shield one of its members, the Pelice Commissioner. Bingham trief although his dues were paid to date.

which the system expects its loyal sons to that it was right for the Commissioner to go to save a member who, from any cause, see all that there was to be seen. An out may be under a cloud is found in the case and-out refusal to let him look at then of a patrolman named Arthur Mallon. It would have been a great sin-insubording is, perhaps, on account of concrete exam- tion. That is one of the worst crimes that ples of this variety that critics, be they a policeman can commit judges or candidates for public office, frequently take delight in casting bricks at hand and the only thing required to make the police system.

A stolen watch started the trouble be-This stick-together spirit, that finds ex- and with practically no exertion on his Their secret meeting place was invaded, emplification of a supreme order in the part, he was provided with a certificate of which is in a manner forced upon police- tion flouts it. General Bingham surprised New York maintained the most powerful Among other things found was a safe. But system, meets, at times, with serious obmen—there are many ways of humiliating the city by securing from the Legislature and the wealthiest lobby on the job. He the combination of the safe the officers said stacles to increased admiration and respect irreparable one to his mother. She remained came incensed. and hurting a man who falls to co-operate the enactment into laws of certain police joined forces with General Bingham, and had been forgotten. Later, some one re-

tice renders policemen open to criticism. office of the District Attorney. She hugged A real danger to society as a whole is be- to her breast the hope of seeing avenged

fence by shooting him in the back. The When the power of the system is exerted District Attorney could not fail to be stru found that the record of the affair Dillon was a Brooklyn policeman, sub- made by the police, with the evident in easy slide away from trouble, was instead was made on the day of the shooting. It

Thousands of dollars were subscribed by obtain the services of an ex-convict named William B. O'Brien, who testified that he had seen the shooting. He swere that stricken. They felt they needed police pro- Mallon was drunk and also greatly en latter was running away. Mallon is now serving a twenty-year sentence in Sing

THE SYSTEM "GOT" HIM

gutter one dismal winter's morning, less than a year after the system's failure shot. He refused to say anything in reply to questions as to who had shot him, e cept: "When you're up against the police say nothin'."

The system is very paternal in its attitude toward its heroic sons. They must be proves unreliable-disloyal, that is, The Lieutenants' Benevolent Association

is the most powerful in the department. It has absorbed the old detective sergeants organization. One of the very few frivol The prosecutor was able to puncture this ous things it does is to hold a tin dinner A striking illustration of the lengths to head of the lieutenants' association agreed

> the seance complete was the set of books a retired captain of the department ser The three-platoon bill-an eight-hour labor a few years ago, and the patrolmen be

> > Continued on seventh page.

ingful use of power is demonstrated, tem was "agin" Bingham and his bills. They discovered \$74,000 in a private box in contributors to the "mortuary fund" was teet each other from the rewards of jus- son had been murdered. She besieged the Grant "Always Regretted" Final Assault on Lee's Impregnable Works at Cold Harbor

erans Perished Before Confederate Guns in Attack on Redoubt.

Grant never forgot. On that day, at the crossroads of Cold Harbor, almost within sight of the spires of Richmond, he sent three corps against the impregnable works of Lee. "It was not war; it was murder," a Confederate officer afterward wrote of that charge. Grant himself, in his quiet, reserved, authoritative way, said: "I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever

The night of May 20 found Hancock, with his 2d Corps, on his way from Spottssylvania, moving in a southeasterly direction. Before daylight fringed the eastern horizon he reached Guiney's Station, on the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad, a little place east of the junction of the Po and Ny rivers, and about as far from Spottsylvania Courthouse as the Courthouse was from Chancellorsville and the Wilderness. The next day he had crossed over the Mattapony, with the purpose of playing the rele of cheese in a rat trap. Lee, who had telegraphed to Richmond early that morning that the enemy appeared to be changing his base and that he himself was extending his line along the Telegraph Road, was expected to fill the complementary role of mouse. Mouse, it was expected by General Grant, would jump at such a tempting morsel as an entire corps separated from the remainder of the Union army by a river. Mouse was wary.

LEE OFF FOR RICHMOND.

Lee was not to be entired from his intrenchments into an open field, where Grant's three remaining corps could fall he laid a pontoon bridge at Jericho Mill. upon him and leave but a bone and a hank of hair. Instead, he picked up his slender race for Richmond he was determined to of Lee's line at an obtuse angle with the the blunted pie point. be in ahead of Grant, and the speed with remainder. Wright followed across the which he crossed the country, coupled with river. the shortness of the interior line along which his threadbare but ever ready fight- Hancock stepped up to the works which tage of his knowledge and stayed inside his ers were tramping, was likely to give him the Confederates had placed on the north the heat. Two days later, in the morning, side of the river to protect the railroad the army and start it again on that perhe found himself at Hanover Junction, the intersection of the Richmond & Fredericks- being a part of what he wanted. The fol- do it. This was no easy task, for Warren's burg and the Virginia Central railroads, lowing morning found him on the south and Wright's troops would have to be withsouth of the North Anna River, twenty- side of the stream with the feminine name | drawn across a river from the very front five miles away from the scene of his last and on the opposite side of Lee's army from of the enemy. This called for dexterity and

by a number of miles. He marched down arrangement at all, for it gave him a very where Warren and Wright were lined up the east side of the Mattapony and then desirable position. He was now planted and made a demonstration at Lee's left end, crossed over. Lee was unaware of the lat- between three corps of Grant's army in an as if preparations were in the making for ter fact until cavalry brought the infor- impregnable position behind marshes and a move of mighty import upon that point. mation some hours after he had crossed thickets, his lines suggesting in shape a The teams and surplus artillery were quiet-North Anna. Once again the latter set wedge of pie the point of which has been by drawn back across the river to the north absorbed by some greedy, large-mouthed side and then, under cover of the night, the implements. Once again he would plant giant fond of the American dessert. The troops were also withdrawn and started himself in the path of the enemy,

though the roads were wide and good and an aeroplane would have thought the gen- union of the North and South Anna rivers, the country open, with growing crops that eral curve of its course and the indenta- on the angle inclosed, by which Lee was gave a prosperous look, it had no maps tions in its bank were evidences of the im- intrenched, and is one of the two tribuor guides. Where do the roads go? and mensity of the giant's dental apparatus. tarles of the estuary bearing the name of had often to be settled. Richmond lay to stretching a mile at the very least. tion. So they took every road leading towtion with defences a paniestricken city and his magnificent dust the men tolled on their way, at I was included the short one passing over the Chickshominy with defences a paniestricken city and his magnificent dust the men tolled on their way, at I was included a paniestricken city and his magnificent dust the men tolled on their way, at I was included a paniestricken city and his magnificent dust the men tolled on their way, at I was included a paniestricken city and his magnificent dust the men tolled on their way, at I was included a paniestricken city and his magnificent dust the men tolled on their way, at I was included a paniestricken city and his magnificent dust the men tolled on their way.

UNE 3, 1864, was a day which General 12n was in command of the Union right. his men across on either side of Lee, army toward Hanover Town, a community

Lee had planted his line along the south impression. Burnside looked across, and it Lee's army is already assured."

Flower of Union Army's Vet- had views about the time when the Union was proposed to send Burnside across the attack him with confidence. I may be misriver in the face of the giant's dental taken, but I feel that our success over

> bank of the North Anna River from a was concluded that it was not worth while He was now so close to Richmond that he point east of the Richmond & Fredericks- to make the attempt. His corps was split did not expect to be able to get between burg Railroad and crossed that line and up and sent to Warren and Hancock, hang- his great opponent and the Confederate the Telegraph Road west of it. He also ing hungrily on the two juicy looking sides | Capitol, but he proposed to strike the James established works on his left flank, which of the giant wedge of pic, six miles apart. River as near it as "high up," as he exlay in the direction of Jericho Mill. War- But the pie was not for them. Having got pressed it, as he could. He pointed his



and their goal which promised to keep the was not able to play the part of a giant corps within touch of one another. With and change them, Lee's position was so

There was only one thing to do. It would

unprofitable to attack Lee, and Lee, On the same day, which was May 23. knowing when he was well off, took advanworks. That one thing was to withdraw and telegraph bridges, and took them, they sistent slide to the left. He proceeded to that occupied by his fellow soldier, War- deception of the enemy. A division of cavriver ran where the point should be, and down the northeast side of the Pamunkey Grant's army had no easy time, for al- perhaps a spectator sailing overhead in River. This is a stream formed by the

feelers out in every direction, however, strong that the Union general looked askwhere so many roads led to Rome, Grant ance at the idea of assaulting, which
could not fail of meeting his opponent, who speaks volumes as to their strength. It have gained the morale over the enemy, and

through Old and New Cold Harbor. A battle with them outside of intrenchments third road branched a few miles out toward achievement. Butler was to operate on the south side of the James, uniting with Grant the Confederate Capitol by way of Mecould not fail of meeting his opponent, who speaks volumes as to their strength. It have gained the morale over the enemy, and changes tiem. Lee's position was so action or his army shows it unnelstakably. Through Old and New Cold through Old and New Cold the morale out toward achievement. Butler was to operate on the south side of the James, uniting with Grant the Confederate Capitol by way of Mecould not fail of meeting his opponent, who speaks volumes as to their strength. It have gained the morale over the enemy, and changes the mext property of the trick, they assert.

However that may be, by the time he was ing they started again, without breaking the confederate Capitol by way of Mecould not fail of meeting his opponent, who speaks volumes as to their strength. It have gained the morale over the enemy, and changes the mext property of the trick, they assert.

However that may be, by the time he was ing they started again, without breaking the confederate Capitol by way of Mecould not fail of meeting his opponent, who speaks volumes as to their strength. It have gained the morale over the enemy, and changes the confederate capitol by the confederate capitol by the trick, they assert.

However that may be, by the time he was in the confederate capitol by the confeder

The move was accomplished successfully.

Grant's route was a more circuitous one ren. Lee did not seem to object to this alry was sent to the south side of the Anna GENERAL BARLOW CHARGING THE CONFEDERATES AT COLD HAR-BOR, JUNE 1, 1864. (Reproduced from a contemporary sketch in Harper's Weekly, by courtesy of the publishers.)

of the army. On May 30 Hancock dis- Richmond defences."

on the south side of the Pamunkey, some | Harbor Grant considered important, as it thirty miles from the North Anna by the "covered the roads back to White House sending out expeditions to tear up railroad Cicilan's old headquarters and Grant's circultous route he was obliged to follow. (where our supplies our supplies our supplies our supplies of the content of the circultous route he was obliged to follow. circuitous route he was obliged to follow. (where our supplies came from), and the tracks. Sheridan passed over first and was fol- roads southeast over which we would have

to do so, his left resting on the river and was valuable to him. His army, therefore joining with Grant at that point. If this though in a position of great security, was junction seemed a probability, he was to as completely shut off as if it had been in make a vigorous attack on Richmond, or a bottle tightly corked." The aptness of aid Grant by keeping a large force of the the phrase describing Butler's predicament enemy on the south side of the city.

Bermuda Hundred, a point south of Mai- came friendly and it was discovered that vern Hill on the peninsula between the General Grant had borrowed it from Geo James and the Appointation. They marched eral J. G. Barnard, it became a source of a bit up the tongue and sat down in a line annoyance to him. three miles long extending from Trent's As Butler could do nothing aggressively Reach on the former stream to Port Walthall on the latter, Smith's corps being on his works, Grant directed that Smith's the right, or James River end, while Gilmore was on the left, or Appointance end, of the Potomac. It was to cross the rive They entrenched and sat there contentedly, and march by way of White House, Mo

lowed on May 27 and 28 by the remainder to pass to get to the James River below the federate government. "This city is in hot White House, on the Pamunkey. An ed federate government." danger," said Seddon, the Confederate Sec- New York ferryboat, equipped with some covered the ever watchful Lee strongly The story now turns to the south side of fortified along the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account of the south side of retary of War, on May 10, four days after bow and stern guns, covered the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to New York ferryboat, equipped with the story now turns to the south side of retary of War, on May 10, four days after bow and stern guns, covered the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to the south side of retary of War, on May 10, four days after bow and stern guns, covered the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to the south side of the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to the south side of the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to the south side of the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to the south side of the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to the south side of the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to the south side of the landing the Totopotomov Creek, a the James, where Butler's account to the south side of the landing the lan fortified along the Totopotomov Creek, a small tributary of the Pamunkey on the on a tongue of least small tributary of the Pamunkey on the on a tongue of least small tributary of the Pamunkey on the least small tributary of the Pamunkey small tributary of the Pamunkey on the on a tongue of land, most thoroughly southwest side.

Grant was now on McClellan's old fight
on a tongue of land, most thoroughly with all our resources, to the sacrifice of minor considerations." But there Butler the opposite direction from his destination. Grant was now on McClellan's old fight- of 22,000 troops, divided into two corps sat. Some since that time have been un- he set off without his wagons of supplied a ground. Hanover Town is about twenty under the command of Culture and his army minor considerations." But there Butler the opposite direction from his description. Which shall we take? were questions which He must have had a mouth capable of the York, the Mattapony being the other. Ing ground. Hanover Town is about twenty under the command of Quincy A. Gillmore kind enough to criticise him for not rush- or ammunition, under the impression. miles from Richmond. From that point two and W. F. Smith, respectively, sailed away ing in and overwhelming the 6,000 men who he was desired as promptly as possible and up the James from the larges from the first and up the James from the first and up th the southward. That was their destina- No horrible ogre may have been responsi- While it was in operation Grant wrote to roads led to the goal, the more direct and up the James from Hampton Roads, 1 had comprised the only human obstacle between

In This Article of The Tribune's Civil War Series Battle Which Cost Many Lives Is Described.

the defences, and he had succeeded in collecting an army of 23,000 men by May 14 when Butler moved out of his works in an aggressive fashion. That force was assembled at Drewry's Bluff, a point on the James River, between four and five miles from the Union intrenchments. Butler did some damage, but found that the foe had taken a strong position and was not to be brushed lightly aside as if he were a fly. The enemy had suckers on his feet and stuck right where he was. Butler's right was left unguarded, and was open to attack from the river and road. That was just the point at which Beauregard attacked on May 16, with the notion of cutting of Butler from his base at Bermuda Hundred and capturing or destroying him. May 16 was a foggy day-a day when the

marshal of the weather chanced to be in an uncertain frame of mind. The for would go up; then it would come down again. This fickle attitude of the mist led to a blundering series of movements and of ders made and countermanded as the fol-lifted and fell." Beauregard had surprised and captured 1.400 troops on the right early in the day, but was not able to go any fun ther. Butler, fearful of an attack in the rear from a force on its way from Petersburg, but which had been driven back as a matter of fact, fell back a little to a post tion where he could protect himself. In the afternoon the fog dissolved in a heary rainfall. That night Butler got back within his intrenchments, and Beauregard followed after and corked him within the peninsula

COINING A NEW PHRASE. Grant now added another to the list of

phrases that he made famous. It lived to cause him discomfort. In describing Butler's position in a report he said: "He was forced back, or drew back, into his in trenchments between the forks of the James and Appomattox rivers, the enemy intrenching strongly in his front, thus covering his railroads, the city and all that made it stick in the public memory. With all the spirit of a conquering legion stuck so closely that in after days, when Butler and his army landed on May 6 at Grant's political relations with Butler be-

new base of supplies. The morning May 30 found Smith and 16,000 men Through the hot afternoon and the deep Church. Bright and early the next morn